

CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable components, comprising:

a test case scenario object configured to coordinate a test of a particular software object by specifying that comprises test methods that are arranged to test an electronic system to be included in the test;

a test runtime object including a plurality of attributes and a test extraction engine configured to extract an ordered list of the test methods based on the attributes to control application of the test methods without modifying the test methods, wherein:

the test extraction engine is configured to select and arrange the test methods in a hierarchy that comprises a base class and subclasses, wherein each of the subclasses derives from the base class; -and

wherein the principle of inheritance is selectively applied to the test methods method according to the attributes to determine if the test methods in each of the subclasses inherit from the base class in accordance with the arrangement of the methods within the hierarchy; and

a test harness that is arranged to provide system test services to support the application of the ordered list of for the test methods in the test of the particular software object.

2. - 4. (Canceled).

5. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of Claim 4, wherein the test extraction engine is configured to use a comparison function that is defined within the attributes to modify the order of the test methods according to the attributes ~~the hierarchy~~.

6. (Original) The computer-readable medium of Claim 1, wherein the base class test methods comprise a setup method and a teardown method.

7. (Original) The computer-readable medium of Claim 6, wherein the subclass test methods comprise a setup method and a teardown method.

8. (Currently Amended) A method for automated testing, comprising:
providing test methods that are arranged to test an electronic system;
providing a runtime test object configured to use a plurality of attributes specified for a particular test to:
extract from among ~~arranging~~ the provided test methods, the provided test methods being presented in a hierarchy that comprises a base class and subclasses, wherein each of the subclasses derives from the base class; and
selectively apply ~~applying~~ the principle of inheritance to each of the extracted test methods according to the attributes ~~method to determine which of the subclasses inherits from the base class~~ in accordance with the arrangement of the methods within the hierarchy without modifying the test methods; and
using a test harness to provide system test services for the test methods.
9. – 11. (Canceled).
12. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 11, further comprising using a comparison function that is defined within the attributes to order the extracted test methods ~~according to the hierarchy~~.
13. (Original) The method of Claim 8, wherein the base class test methods comprise a setup method and a teardown method.

14. (Original) The method of Claim 13, wherein the subclass test methods comprise a setup method and a teardown method.

15. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable components describing a test automation system, comprising:

a test case scenario object that describes ~~comprises~~ test methods that are arranged to test an electronic system, wherein the test methods that are arranged in a hierarchy that comprises a base class and subclasses, wherein each of the subclasses derives from the base class;

a test runtime object configured to:

extract the test methods described by the test case scenario object; and

selectively apply a, and wherein the principle of inheritance is applied to each of the test method to determine whether the subclasses will inherit from the base class from which the subclasses are derived in accordance with the arrangement of the methods within the hierarchy; and

a test harness that is arranged to provide ~~system test services for~~ the test methods.

16. – 17. (Canceled).

18. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of Claim 15, further comprising a test extraction engine that is configured to order the test methods ~~according to the hierarchy.~~

19. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of Claim 18, wherein the test extraction engine is configured to use a comparison function that is defined within the attributes to order the test methods ~~according to the hierarchy~~.

20. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of Claim 15, wherein the base class test methods comprise a setup method and a teardown method.

21. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of Claim 15, wherein the subclass test methods comprise a setup method and a teardown method.

22. – 29. (Canceled).

30. (New) A computer-implemented method for testing computer software, comprising:

receiving a test case scenario describing a plurality of test methods to be performed on the computer software, wherein the plurality of test methods are arranged in a hierarchy including at least one base class and one or more subclasses derived from the base class;

providing the test case scenario to a test runtime object, the test runtime object being configured to:

respond to the test case scenario to order the test methods for application to the computer software; and

based on the test case scenario, collect a plurality of attributes to be applied to the test methods identified to determine if inheritance should be applied to the subclasses within the base class; and

engaging a test harness through the test runtime object, wherein the test runtime object invokes desired system test services from the test harness for testing the computer software to perform the tests described by the test case scenario without the test case scenario having to specify the desired system test services.

31. (New) The computer-implemented method of Claim 30, further comprising using a comparison function that is defined within the attributes to order the extracted test methods.

32. (New) The computer-implemented method of Claim 30, wherein the base class test methods comprise a setup method and a teardown method.

33. (New) The computer-implemented method of Claim 32, wherein the subclass test methods comprise a setup method and a teardown method.